

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9478

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03306

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: GREENHILL REPORT ON RHODESIA

SUMMARY: DENIS GRENNAN SAYS THE GREENHILL MISSION TO
RHODESIA ACHIEVED NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S ADVISER ON AFRICA,
DENIS GRENNAN, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER MARCH 2 THAT THE
GREENHILL MISSION TO SALISBURY PRODUCED NO SURPRISES FOR
HMG. GREENHILL'S REPORT OF HIS TRIP, WHICH CALLAGHAN AND
THE FCO HAVE UNDER STUDY," CONTAINS NOTHING OF REAL
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SIGNIFICANCE, GRENNAN SAID. IN TALKS WITH THE BRITISH EMISSARY, RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH AVOIDED SPECIFICS AND BROUGHT FORTH NO NEW IDEAS. GREENHILL BELIEVES THAT THE "NEW ATTITUDE" IN SALISBURY IS MORE LIKE A NEW ATMOSPHERE. THERE IS A GROWING SENSE OF ISOLATION AMONG WHITE RHODESIANS AND AN INCREASED APPREHENSION THAT CATASTROPHE MAY LIE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. BUT GREENHILL FOUND NO SIGN OF A RHODESIAN WILLINGNESS TO DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT THE GATHERING STORM. THE RHODESIANS WERE "GOOD ON ANALYSIS AND POOR ON PRESCRIPTION," GRENNAN COMMENTED. WHAT SMITH MIGHT DESCRIBE AS "MAJOR CONCESSIONS" ARE IN FACT TRIVIAL AND REVOLVE AROUND THE CONCEPT THAT IT WOULD BE HEALTHY TO HAVE BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT SO LONG AS WHITES REMAIN IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

2. GRENNAN WAS DUBIOUS ABOUT NEWS STORIES THIS MORNING REPORTING REMARKS OF AN ANC SOURCE THAT THE SMITH-NKOMO TALKS HAD REACHED A "NEAR BREAKTHROUGH" POINT. CERTAINLY SMITH HAD NOT CONVEYED TO GREENHILL THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT PROPOSALS WERE ABOUT TO BE TABLED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. FOR DIFFERENT REASONS BOTH SMITH AND NKOMO HAVE A STAKE IN KEEPING THE TALKS GOING, AND EITHER ONE WOULD BE INCLINED TO PORTRAY SOME SLIGHT MOVEMENT AS IMPORTANT PROGRESS.

3. CALLAGHAN WILL MAKE A "HOLDING STATEMENT" IN PARLIAMENT THIS AFTERNOON MERELY REPORTING GREENHILL'S RETURN AND STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING HIS REPORT. GRENNAN SAID THERE WAS NO SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT THE EXERCISE AND THAT "THERE PROBABLY ISN'T A ROLE FOR US TO PLAY NOW."

3. UK HIGH COMMISSIONERS IN LUSAKA AND DAR ES SALAAM HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRIEF KAUNDA AND NYERERE ON THE GENERAL RESULTS OF GREENHILL'S MISSION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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